

# **BEDFORD PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

6701 SOUTH ARCHER AVENUE  
BEDFORD PARK ILLINOIS 60501  
PHONE 708-458-4488 FAX 708-563-4525

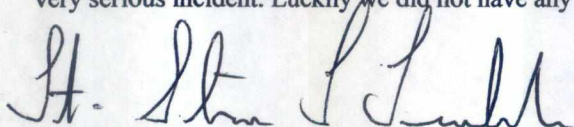


To: Chief Godfrey  
From: Lt. Steven Lindich  
CC  
Subject: Information from Officer Cuchna  
Date: May 25, 2016

The following information is a summary of a conversation I had with officer Cuchna

Officer Cuchna came to my office to talk with me. During the conversation she mentioned an incident that occurred where Officer Craig where he had not backed up an officer on a call. I told her that I had not heard anything about it and asked her to tell me what happened. She stated that on May 6<sup>th</sup> at around 1850 hrs. she was on a traffic accident doing a report and heard officer Pelino chasing an offender on Cicero avenue and the dispatcher was asking if there was a unit that could back him up. She said that no one was responding so she cleared from her accident and notified dispatch that she was in route to back up officer Pelino. She said while in route she passed officer Craig on 71<sup>st</sup> street who was traveling w/b on 71st just east of Harlem and he did not respond to the call that officer Pelino was on. She said that it bothered her that he did not respond to a call where an officer needed back up so after the call she completed the accident report and then came into the station and while there she informed Sgt. Goyer of what had happened and had not heard anything about it since then.

She further stated that 2 days later she had a conversation with officer Craig in the police parking lot and asked him why he didn't back up officer Pelino on the call and he said that he didn't like officer Pelino and that's why he didn't back him. I feel that this is a very serious incident. Luckily we did not have any injury's but we can't have officers not backing each other up.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lt. Steven Lindich". The signature is stylized with large, flowing letters.

Lt. Steven Lindich



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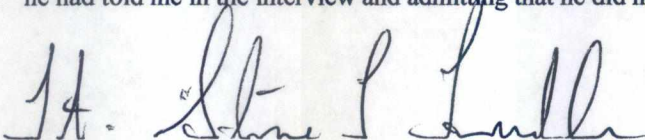
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To: Chief Godfrey  
From: Lt. Steven Lindich  
CC  
Subject: Interview with Officer Craig  
Date: May 25, 2016

On 25 may 2016 at 1535 hours I met with officer Craig in my office.

I told officer Craig that I was looking into an incident that occurred on May 6<sup>th</sup>, and that it was an informal interview. I told him that officer Pelino had a foot pursuit with a retail theft offender from Target. Officer Craig said that he didn't remember the call. I then told officer Craig that according to records from that date he was on a call at Target with officer Anagnos and officer Pelino at on another incident and had cleared from that call just a few minutes before officer Pelino got another call at Target and had ended up in the pursuit. I then asked him again if he remembered hearing the call. He said he did not remember anything about it. I then told officer Craig to write a to-from to me stating what he had told me verbally. Officer Craig later sent me an email recanting what he had told me in the interview and admitting that he did hear the call and didn't back up officer Pelino. That email is attached.

  
Lt. Steven Lindich



## Steve Lindich

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**From:** Michael Craig  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 25, 2016 5:05 PM  
**To:** Steve Lindich  
**Subject:** To-From regarding informal investigation

On 25 May 2016 at approx. 1440 hrs, I was dispatched to the station and directed to speak with LT. Lindich. LT. Lindich informed me he was conducting an informal investigation on the events that took place on 06 May 2016. After my conversation with LT. Lindich about allegations against me, I took some time to collect my thoughts, after calming down, to write this email. On said day, I was en route to back up Ofc. Anagnos with a juvenile theft at Target and arrived at approx. 1819 hrs and was cleared from that call at approx. 1853 hrs, according to LT. Lindich who had the log sheets. Once I was cleared from the call, I drove around the parking lots of Target, Artvan and Home Depot, for approx. 5 mins, to find a red vehicle which was involved in the incident but the vehicle had already left the area. I started to head to the station via 73rd st to 71st st. LT. Lindich stated there was another call at Target dispatched to Ofc. Pelino which resulted in a foot chase that ended at Ford City Mall in Chicago. While at 71/Harlem W/B, Ofc. Cuchna passed me from E/B 71st st. Once at the station, Ofc Cuchna and I had a very brief conversation and she asked why didn't I go back up Ofc Pelino. In a very jokingly and sarcastic tone I stated something to the affect of, he is on bones and won't back him. The statement was meant in jest only and I would never wish any harm to any officer, especially my fellow co-worker. I handed in my paperwork and left for the day.

Ofc. Craig #56.



## Steve Lindich

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**From:** Tamara Cuchna  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 26, 2016 5:01 AM  
**To:** Steve Lindich

Lt. Lindich,

In summary, on 06 May 2016, some where between 1850 hrs and 1900 hrs, I was on a traffic crash in the 6600 block S. Harlem Ave. While I was handling the traffic crash, there was a call of a male black subject fleeing from Target, 7100 S. Cicero Ave. Ofc. Pelino was in pursuit of the offender who was wanted for retail theft. Ofc. Pelino's radio transmissions were hard to understand since he was on Cicero Ave and his radio kept cutting in and out. I was aware that Ofc. Anagnos was transporting a juvenile offender from another retail theft back to the station. Not knowing if there were any additional units available from Bedford Park PD to back up Ofc. Pelino, I decided to break away from my traffic crash since we were in the median of Harlem Ave. I told the driver that I needed to go back up another officer and would return with his paperwork for the crash. I performed a U-turn on Harlem Ave and kept my over headlights on and activated my siren. I proceeded southbound on Harlem Ave and then made a left hand turn and continued eastbound on 71st Street. Some where between Harlem Ave and Sayre Ave, I noticed a marked Bedford Park Police patrol vehicle without its overhead lights on, nor sirens on, traveling at a slow speed going westbound on 71st Street. As I passed that patrol vehicle, I looked over and noticed Ofc. Craig was driving that car. I was inquisitive as to why Ofc. Craig was not responding to back up Ofc. Pelino who was still in pursuit of the retail theft offender. I decided to focus my attention on my driving instead and continued to the call. As I proceeded to the call, Sgt. Nogajewski did ask Oak Lawn Central to see if they had a Burbank PD car available to back up Ofc. Pelino. Once I got near the area of Carsons, in Ford City Mall, I began to look for Ofc. Pelino. I did find his patrol vehicle, which was unoccupied in the parking lot, but I did not see Ofc. Pelino. Myself as well as dispatch tried to call Ofc. Pelino without any acknowledgement on the radio. I informed dispatch that I wasn't sure where to look for Ofc. Pelino but was going to go inside the store. Once inside Carsons, I located Ofc. Pelino who was walking the offender up the escalator from the basement of the store in handcuffs. Ofc. Pelino informed me that his radio did not work inside the mall. Dispatch held the Net 10 radio traffic until Ofc. Pelino was located. Ofc. Pelino and myself escorted the arrestee back out of Carsons and to his patrol vehicle. A show up was performed with Target's loss prevention. Ofc. Pelino then transported the offender back to Target, where I stayed with them until another officer, Ofc. J. Woods, arrived on scene.

I then returned back to 6600 S. Harlem Ave to complete paperwork for the traffic crash. Once the exchange of paperwork for the accident was complete, I returned to the station to retrieve paperwork from dispatch for my report. Sgt. Goyer happened to come upstairs to dispatch at that time and I notified him of my observations of Ofc. Craig as I responded to Ofc. Pelino's fleeing retail theft call. Sgt. Goyer stated that he would talk to Sgt. Nogajewski, who was the dayshift supervisor, about Ofc. Craig.

The situation was unsettling to me as why Ofc. Craig would not respond to back up a fellow officer. I decided to talk to Ofc. Craig myself about what I had witnessed. Ofc. Craig was off the following day. On 08 May 2016, I came into work and saw Ofc. Craig in the parking lot of the police station. I approached Ofc. Craig regarding my observations on Friday in a joking manner as not to have a major argument with a coworker. Ofc. Craig relayed that he does not like Ofc. Pelino and that is why he did not respond to back him up. I told Ofc. Craig that "Ofc. Pollard and I have not gotten along nor have seen eye to eye over the last year but I still would not do that to Ofc. Pollard nor any other officer here". Ofc. Craig stated there was a situation that happened



between the 2 of them and that he would further discuss the story of why they did not get along when I returned back to dayshift. I reiterated to Ofc. Craig that just because officers don't get along doesn't mean that we shouldn't back each other up. I told Ofc. Craig that I knew that Ofc. Pelino wasn't screaming for help but he was still in a pursuit of an offender and was all by himself.

The next time I was at work with Sgt. Goyer, I followed up with him regarding the conversation I had with Ofc. Craig.

Tamara M. Cuchna #59




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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** OFFICER M. CRAIG  
**FROM:** CHIEF DAN GODFREY   
**SUBJECT:** SUSPENSION  
**DATE:** 7/18/2016  
**CC:** POLICE COMMITTEE; PERSONNEL FILE

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On 5/31/2016 you were advised to contact your FOP representative to schedule a Pre-Discipline Hearing on the charge of failing to provide back-up to another officer. To this date you have failed to comply.

On 5/6/2016 at approximately 1900 hours, you and other Bedford Park units were in the area of Home Depot/Target looking for a vehicle. According to radio transmissions on Code 3, you were going to take one more look before you headed into the station. Within a minute of said conversation Dispatch notified 119 Ofc. Pelino of an offender wanted by Target that was in the area. Shortly thereafter, Ofc. Pelino was in foot pursuit of the wanted individual. Ofc. Anagnos was in route to the station with a Juvenile prisoner. Ofc. Cuchna, from the other side of town (Harlem Ave.) stated she was in-route to back Ofc. Pelino. No transmission was made from you. While in route to backup Ofc. Pelino, Ofc. Cuchna observed you travelling w/b on 71<sup>st</sup> St. approaching Harlem Ave. apparently heading towards the station. By this time Sgt. Nogajewski was requesting assistance from Burbank P.D. You never responded to the backup request.

The time of the pursuit and the time that you stated you were in the Target/Home Depot area are relatively within the same time span. At the very least, you were the closest Officer to Ofc. Pelino when he advised of his foot pursuit. Yet, you failed to take action and continued to the station to terminate your shift.

With the conditions as they exist in this country, and the apparent war against law enforcement, you failed to back-up an Officer that was in foot pursuit that was in your approximate area. You further made comments after the fact that "he (Pelino) is on bones" and that you would not back him up. These actions and words are unacceptable for an Officer of this Department.

You are suspended for three (3) work days for failure to back up a fellow officer during a foot pursuit while in close proximity of the event in violation of Rules and Regulations Chapter 20 Section 21.1 Personal Conduct; Chapter 20 Section 22.1 & 22.9 Duty Responsibility; Chapter 20 Section 23.2 General Conduct.



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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** OFFICER M. CRAIG  
**FROM:** CHIEF DAN GODFREY  
**SUBJECT:** SUSPENSION  
**DATE:** 8/17/2016  
**CC:** POLICE COMMITTEE; PERSONNEL FILE

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On 5/6/2016 at approximately 1900 hours, you and other Bedford Park units were in the area of Home Depot/Target looking for a vehicle. According to radio transmissions on Code 3, you were going to take one more look before you headed into the station. Within a minute of said conversation Dispatch notified 119 Ofc. Pelino of an offender wanted by Target that was in the area. Shortly thereafter, Ofc. Pelino was in foot pursuit of the wanted individual. Ofc. Anagnos was in route to the station with a Juvenile prisoner. Ofc. Cuchna, from the other side of town (Harlem Ave.) stated she was in-route to back Ofc. Pelino. No transmission was made from you. While in route to backup Ofc. Pelino, Ofc. Cuchna observed you travelling w/b on 71<sup>st</sup> St. approaching Harlem Ave. apparently heading towards the station. By this time Sgt. Nogajewski was requesting assistance from Burbank P.D. You never responded to the backup request.

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After the Pre-Discipline Hearing is was determined that you would take a one day suspension, lose 12 hours compensation time earned and be placed on probation for a period of one (1) year. During that year if no other similar incident was recorded, that the third day would be negated. However, if during probation a similar occurrence did occur, the third day would be taken as a suspension in addition to any discipline as a result of the new occurrence.